

Q/A on Recommended 2019-20 Bell Schedules

Why change East Cary MS, Briarcliff ES, and Cary ES bell times for the distant Green Level HS?

Opening Parkside ES, Alston Ridge MS, Green Level HS will require adding transportation resources to the western area. WCPSS transportation seeks schools east of this area for relief to minimize the impact. Currently both East Cary MS and West Cary MS are on the 1st tier bell time and many routes are operated by buses from the Green Hope/Green Level area. Shifting East Cary MS from 1st to 2nd tier allows the Cary area to cover both East Cary MS and West Cary MS routes thus shifting resources to the Green Hope/Green Level area schools.

In order to accommodate East Cary MS on the 2nd tier bell time schedule, it is necessary to shift Cary ES and Briarcliff ES to the standard elementary 3rd tier bell time. Not changing the bell time for these two schools would result in additional resource requirements.

Why not change Davis Dr. ES to 3rd tier bell time instead of Cary ES and Briarcliff ES?

Due to Davis Dr. ES proximity to Green Hope HS and the high housing density that allows for short routes, several routes are shared with Green Hope HS. Changing Davis Dr. ES to 3rd tier bell time will not result in resource savings. In addition, the western area is already impacted by opening Parkside ES at the 3rd tier bell time.

Why can't Apex ES shift back to a 2nd tier bell time when Apex HS returns from Green Level HS swing space site?

Apex ES bell time was changed from 2nd tier to 3rd tier in 2017-2018 when Apex HS moved to Green Level HS as swing space. The change also helped to accommodate Apex Friendship MS which opened in 2018-19 with the standard middle school 2nd tier bell time.

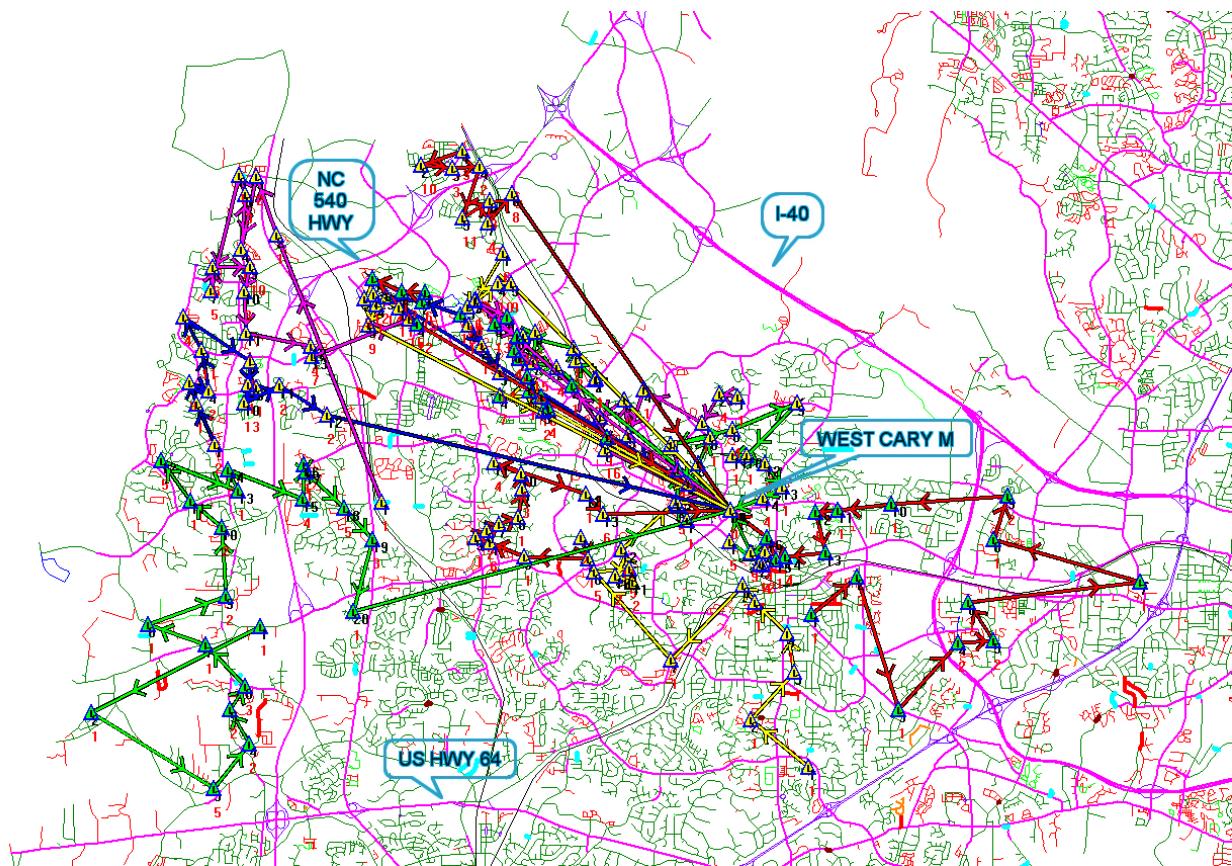
Why can't North Ridge ES shift back to a 2nd tier bell time when the school returns from Spring Forest swing space site?

The following factors increased transportation demands to the northern area's 2nd tier making 3rd tier the recommended bell time for North Ridge ES:

- Millbrook ES magnet program began offering neighborhood transportation service for a portion of the draw area in 2018-19. This school is on a 2nd tier bell time and shares buses with E Millbrook MS.
- W Millbrook MS became a magnet school in 2018-19 with an express transportation service area that extends from Glenwood Ave. to Louisburg Rd. The school is on the standard 2nd tier middle school bell time.
- The northern area had to absorb 3 Durant MS/ES routes due to the Enloe HS base redistricting. Durant MS/ES share buses and are on the 2nd tier bell time.

Why not change West Cary MS to 2nd tier bell time?

W Cary MS is an overflow school for Mill Park MS with a larger transportation coverage area than most middle schools (see illustration below). Due to the long route time, several buses are unable to run 1st tier school routes if West Cary MS is on a 2nd tier bell time.



Can Cary ES stay with the same bell time by implementing shared runs like Davis Dr. ES, or a middle ground at 8:45 or 8:50 a.m.?

Cary ES and Briarcliff ES are not good candidates for shared runs. The attendance areas are larger, and the length of routes are longer (see illustration below). The higher housing density near Davis Dr. ES attributes to short routes, some can fill up a bus with 2 stops.

Shifting Cary ES to the 3rd tier bell time optimizes bus utilization to all tiers. An 8:30 AM or 8:50 AM bell time shortens the service window between tiers and will not allow buses to serve all tiers which would require additional resources.

